

July 29, 2004

City of Long Beach
Department of Public Works
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Attn: Mr. Tom Leary, Stormwater Program Officer

Subject: Deliverable for Task 1, Establish Project Goals and Objectives – List of Jointly Recommended Goals and Objectives – Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Leary:

This letter report provides the “List of Jointly Recommended Goals and Objectives ” deliverable for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study. This deliverable is part of Task 1 (Establish Project Goals and Objectives).

On July 22, 2004, a public meeting was conducted to gather inputs on goals and objectives for this study. It was a joint meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), council-appointed Colorado Lagoon Advisory Group (CLAG) and community stakeholders. Attachment 1 is the summary of the input from that meeting. The input was categorized according to how it related to the existing Work Program objectives. Other general comments and questions received are also listed on Attachment 1.

Based on this meeting and other existing sources, a jointly recommended list of goals and objectives for this project was developed. This is provided as Attachment 2. The existing objectives from the Work Program are included, as well as three new objectives. Under some of the major objectives, we have listed some specific sub-objectives which were identified at the public meeting and which warrant consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on this important project. Please contact Kim Garvey or me at 562-426-9551 with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

MOFFATT & NICHOL

Chris Webb
Project Manager

Enclosures

ATTACHMENT 1
SUMMARY LIST OF INPUTS FROM 7/22/04 PUBLIC MEETING

GOAL(S):

- Restore the marine ecosystem and support safe recreation while improving water and sediment quality and managing storm water in Colorado Lagoon.

OBJECTIVES (Top level bullets are the objectives from the Work Program):

- Redirect, reduce, or treat storm and dry weather runoff to minimize contamination of water and sediment in Colorado Lagoon
 - Divert storm drain flows to sanitary sewer treatment plant (Colonna initiative)
 - Look at re-routing and treating storm drains
- Identify sources of pollutants and recommend controls within the watershed
 - Water quality issue – must comply with TMDLs
 - Holistic watershed approach and management plan; our approach will need to be creative
 - i.e. if improve/increase bird population, we increase e-coli and decrease water quality and swimming
 - standard methods may not apply
 - Golf course must be held accountable for their contribution
 - Look at upstream drains and enforce laws (people still dumping)
 - Address the surrounding neighborhoods
 - Look into place-based planning – LA River Link project – modular approach - applies to Colorado Lagoon
 - addresses how to get people to come to the lagoon
 - Do we have demographics of the users of the lagoon?
 - if it is local people, then we have an opportunity to educate them
 - Address beach practices
 - Trash can management on beach – no lids – birds picking trash out of cans
 - City trucks driving on sand and dripping oil
- Evaluate the need to remove contaminated sediments
 - would like to see sediment quality addressed
- Restore and maintain estuarine habitat
 - North side underutilized
 - Huge parking lot, City dumps sand there, picnic tables – no one uses
 - Would like to see this side made into a habitat area
 - this would not adversely affect recreation
 - Install observation points and interpretative signs to convey message that this is a wildlife area
 - Install blinds to improve upon bird nesting areas

- Bolsa Chica has atmosphere that it “belongs to the biology” – people respect it; would like to create this same atmosphere at the lagoon
 - Should educate users/visitors on what habitat/species are in and around the lagoon.
 - If they know what they’re stepping on, maybe they will stop.
 - Restore upland habitat
- Improve Colorado Lagoon’s circulation and the tidal connection with Marine Stadium and Alamitos Bay
 - Enlarge culvert or create open channel
 - Water and sediment quality directly linked to flow in and out of lagoon
 - May be costly to clean out culvert and would not be worth it
 - Any culvert studies done thus far? This needs to be done.
 - Remove culvert and make into open channel (with walking trail along the sides)
 - Successful example of this done in San Luis Obispo
 - Broad approach to restore channel for culvert
 - Completely remove it – make into channel large enough for rowing
- Balance flood control, recreation, and pollution abatement at Colorado Lagoon
 - Balance dual uses –swimming and habitat
 - Education center, lots of opportunities
- Inputs which did not fit into any of the objectives categories above:
 - Make access road off 6th Street narrower so bank can be widened and/or a walking trail put in
 - Enhance vegetation along golf course fenceline to soften view of golf course/lagoon transition
 - The lagoon is a significant opportunity; don’t be afraid to take bold approach.
 - Remove access road off 6th Street
 - Put in walking trail all the way around the lagoon
 - Want jogging / walking trails, places for people to sit and enjoy the lagoon during the evening
 - Under-utilized space at north Marine Stadium; link it to Colorado Lagoon
 - Move recreational use from the lagoon to Marine Stadium
 - Install a beach at Marine Stadium and a nature preserve at Colorado Lagoon
 - Expand boundary of this project, think broader
 - Educate users of what they’re swimming in
 - Do not understand why the City still lets people swim there
 - Project boundary should include Marine Stadium
 - Create sediment management plan for imported beach fill sand

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Re. Culvert
 - Was a big mistake to fill in the land between the lagoon and Marine Stadium
 - Cannot remove marine growth without Coastal Commission approval
 - FOCL has video of inside of culvert

- Enlarge culvert - tie into TADP – what is invert elevation of each – is this a concern to us?
 - Would an open channel culvert conflict with the City's open space policy?
 - Re Marine Stadium side of culvert: invert lower (?) than low tide.
- Re Implementation Funding
 - Having all of this info is great, but implementation is key
 - Get study done as quickly as possible so do not miss out on Coastal Conservancy (Prop 50?) money
 - Coastal Conservancy has already indicated that they would like to fund this project; may have up to \$1.5M available
 - Time-sensitivity is critical
 - Concerned that team did not have a priority of getting funding for the next phase
 - SG Rivers and Mountains Conservancy potential source of funding
 - Disappointed that City lost the funding from the Clean Beaches Initiative
 - Would like to see the City take a more organized/effectual approach to getting additional funding
 - Important to have watershed management plan for implementation funding
 - Should get money from Port of Long Beach; they should be putting money back into their own city.
 - Think big and out of the box as this may fit well with board funding opportunities.
- General
 - Pleased with the work done thus far
 - Will be a balancing act between habitat and swimming/water quality.
 - Watershed exhibit currently at Aquarium of the Pacific
 - Did not hear us talk about the Termino Avenue Drain Project; is this still happening?

ATTACHMENT 2
JOINTLY RECOMMENDED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES,
INCLUDING SPECIFIC SUB-OBJECTIVES WHICH WERE IDENTIFIED AT THE
7/22/04 PUBLIC MEETING

GOAL(S):

- Restore the marine ecosystem and support safe recreation while improving water and sediment quality and managing storm water in Colorado Lagoon.

OBJECTIVES:

- Redirect, reduce, or treat storm and dry weather runoff to minimize contamination of water and sediment in Colorado Lagoon
 - Understand Councilman Colonna initiative to divert storm drain flows to treatment plants
- Identify sources of pollutants and recommend controls within the watershed
 - Educate lagoon users and local neighborhoods
 - Enforce accountability of upstream-watershed offenders
 - Look into other project approaches (e.g. L.A. River Link Project)
 - Evaluate current City maintenance and trash management practices
 - Consider in-line treatment or retention of low flows.
- Evaluate the need to remove contaminated sediments
- Restore and maintain estuarine habitat
 - Evaluate lagoon areas currently underutilized and consider changing to habitat areas
 - Educate visitors of habitat – instill respect for nature
 - Consider restoration of wetland and upland habitat
- Improve Colorado Lagoon's circulation and the tidal connection with Marine Stadium and Alamitos Bay
 - Consider improving or maintaining the existing culvert
 - Consider an open channel
 - Understand constraints related to cleaning or replacing the culvert
- Balance flood control, recreation, and pollution abatement at Colorado Lagoon
 - Educate lagoon users/swimmers of water quality issues
 - Think big and out of the box – expand the view to include the Marine Stadium
 - Create a recreational area integrating the lagoon and Marine Stadium
 - Integrate this project with the TADP Marine Stadium alternative
- Enhance public enjoyment of the lagoon
 - Evaluate need for access road off 6th Street versus walking trail
 - Consider walking trail and benches all the way around the lagoon
 - Consider vegetated buffer (screening) areas along golf course fenceline
- Create a sediment management plan for imported beach fill sand
- Address next phase implementation funding
 - Identify potential sources of funding and understand their funding criteria and deadlines

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